

776 from one spring to another in the hope of propitiating
755 the various tutelary deities in charge of them.

776 The Dragoua are children who are born with
bunches of hair or feathers on their shoulders, by
●845 means of which they are able to fly, or at least to take
tremendous leaps. The mother of such a child must,
it is said, be very careful to keep secret its peculiarities,
for, should they be observed by a stranger, the child
would die, and in any case it will not be long lived.
On stormy nights the Dragoua leave their cradles, or
beds, and, rising into the air, fight with the Koutché-
dras, the contest often waxing so hot that they uproot
trees to use as weapons, which are, on the following
morning, found strewn on the ground.

826 Another curious belief current in Albania main-
tains the actual existence there of men with tails,
either like those of goats or of horses. Persons retaining
these appendages of their remote ancestors are held
to be always short and broad of figure, untiring
walkers, and endowed with great physical strength.
Von Hahn was of opinion that this is not a mere
vague popular superstition, but has a foundation in
fact. "Soliman of Dragoti, one of my cavasses at
Ioannina," he says, "maintained that in his part
of the country tailed men of this sort were often to be
seen, and that he had himself a tailed cousin, whom
he had often, in youth, when bathing together, pulled
by this gift of nature. An even more trustworthy
authority, Theodoris, who had in his younger days
been a klepht on Pindus, related that in his band
there was, for several years, an undersized, broad-

¹ *Albanische Studien*, pp. 163-4.